

COVID-19: INSTRUCTIONS ON SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR PRIMARY CARE

WELLINGTON SCL

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

COVID-19 infection prevention and control advice for primary care is available on the Ministry of Health website under “Primary Care Quick Reference Guide.”

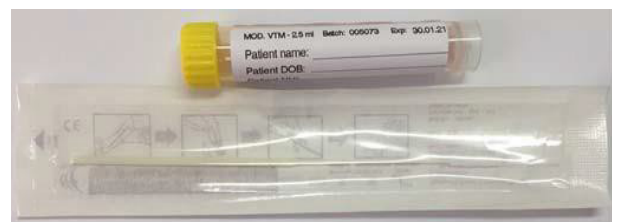
Droplet and contact precautions are advised when collecting specimens, which includes the use of:

- Disposable, fluid resistant gown (long sleeved)
- Gloves
- Surgical mask
- Eye protection (e.g. goggles or face shield)

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB (this is the preferred sample type) – NobleBio (the thinner swab in the package), Fort Richard, Citoswab



Citoswab (nasopharyngeal comes with bag)



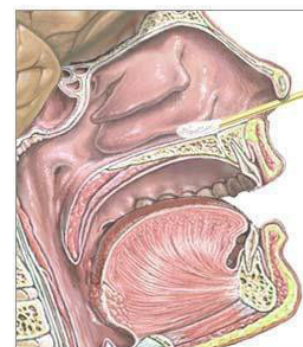
Fort Richard Nasopharyngeal Swab



NobleBio Naso/Oropharyngeal Swab

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB

1. **ENSURE PATIENT BLOWS NOSE PRIOR TO COLLECTION.**
2. NOTE: the Noble Bio package contains two swabs – the finer one is for nasopharyngeal swabbing, the larger one is an oropharyngeal swab.
3. Insert swab into one nostril. The direction of the swab should be almost horizontal, aiming to pass it just above the floor of the nasal passage. For adequate collection the swab tip must extend well beyond the anterior nares until some resistance is met.
4. Press on swab tip and rotate the swab tip slowly for 5-10 seconds across the mucosal surface of the nasopharynx to collect cellular material.
5. Break swab into VIRAL TRANSPORT MEDIUM and recap. Ensure there is no leakage.
6. Label specimen with patient's name, date of birth AND/OR NHI number, and collection time and date.
7. Enclose the request form with your specimen and send via your usual collection service.



A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx

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OROPHARYNGEAL SWAB (use if nasopharyngeal swab not possible) – NobleBio (large swab in same package as nasopharyngeal)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OROPHARYNGEAL SWAB

1. Swab the oropharynx first: swab the tonsillar beds and the back of the throat, avoiding the tongue. Do this slowly, rotating the swab with gentle pressure so that epithelial cells are collected.
2. Using the same swab, perform a deep per nasal swab: pass the swab into a nostril horizontally backwards for 2-3cm. Gently rotate swab for 10 seconds applying sideways pressure so that epithelial cells from the midline nasal septum are collected. Adequate contact time is crucial for sample quality. If patient unable to tolerate, ask them to perform the procedure themselves.
3. Place swab into viral transport medium and break off. **Screw cap on carefully** to ensure and ensure there is no leakage.
4. Label and bag specimen in same manner as above.